

REMARKS

Claims 29-79 are pending. All stand rejected. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments made above and remarks below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

The Examiner rejected claims 29, 30, 32-34, 36-38 and 40 as being anticipated by Ramasubramanian (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,672). In particular, with regard to the recited “plurality of still images,” the Examiner stated that “a video stream is composed of frames, each frame being a single still image.”

The Applicants overcome the rejection by the above amendments. In particular, the Applicants have amended independent claims 29, 33 and 37 to recite that the “plurality of still images” are “in the form of a still image file format.” As stated in the Applicant’s specification on page 18, lines 14-16, “still image file formats such as JPEG, GIF, BMP, TIFF, PIC, MAC or PCD may be used...”.

Thus, claims 29, 33, 35 and 37 recite the sending of a plurality of still image files for display at a presentation rate. Ramasubramanian does not disclose or suggest such a feature. This is clear because Ramasubramanian uses still image formats, such as JPEG, only for “a quality snapshot” and not for other display operations (Col. 7, line 53 to Col. 8, line 35). Ramasubramanian uses compressed video files, rather than still image files, for performing slow motion (Col. 6, lines 25-33) and for performing fast forward and rewind operations (Col. 8, lines 36-42). The Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to modify Ramasubramanian in order to achieve the present invention as recited in claims 29, 33, 35 and 37 at least because still image files are not generally regarded as suitable for use other than for display of still images.

In view of the above, the Applicants submit that amended claims 29, 33, 35 and 37 are allowable. Further, claims 30, 32-34, 36-38 and 40 are allowable at least because each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejected claims 31, 35 and 39 as being obvious in view of Ramasubramanian. In particular, the Examiner took official notice that the JPEG file format is well-known for transmitting multi-media information over a network.

It is important to note that claims 31, 35 and 39 are dependent from allowable base claims. For at least this reason, they are allowable. Further, the Applicants do not agree that still image file formats, such as JPEG, are well known for transmitting *multimedia* information. Rather, they are known for display of still images or snapshots, in the manner disclosed by Ramasubramanian. In contrast, the present invention as recited by claims 31, 35 and 39, uses a plurality of still image files for display at a presentation rate.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 31, 35 and 39 are not an obvious adaptation of Ramasubramanian.

The Examiner rejected claims 41-79 as being obvious in view of Ramasubramanian in view of Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,683). Regarding claims 41, 51, 62 and 71, the Examiner stated that Ramasubramanian does not disclose sending time stamps to the client for the video information, but that Palmer does disclose including time stamps with multimedia information.

The applicant overcomes the rejection as to claims 41 and 51 in view of the amendments above. In particular, claims 41 and 51 have been amended to clarify that the improved quality video information with which the time stamps are associated does not include audio information. This is explained in the Applicants' specification at page 18, lines 13-14, "[t]he second file format has improved quality digital video information, but not necessarily any sound." However, the entire purpose of the timestamp of Palmer is to "help ... realign the audio and video data (col. 13, lines 40-45 and Col. 15, lines 27-52). Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to combine Palmer's suggestion of using timestamps for aligning audio information to video information with Ramasubramanian in order to transmit improved quality video information that does not include audio information, as recited in claims 41 and 51.

In view of the above, the Applicants submit that amended claims 41 and 51 are allowable. Claims 42-50 and 52- 61 are allowable at least because each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Examiner stated that Ramasubramanian discloses improved quality video information that includes selected frames from the second source and omits skipped video

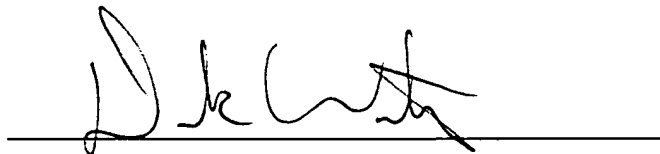
information from the second source (col. 6, line 25 to col. 7, line 12). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as it applies to claims 62 and 71, which each recite this feature. How to perform this non-trivial task, in which video information is skipped in order to play selected "target" frames, is explained on page 25, line 11 to page 28, line 19, of the Applicants' specification. And, as explained on page 46, lines 24-25, rewind and fast and slow forward operations may be performed in essentially the same manner (by skipping video information).

In contrast to skipping video information from the second source, Ramsubramanian discloses that video file 134 has been pre-compressed using one compression ratio and that video file 140 has been pre-compressed using a different, lower compression ratio (col. 5, line 64 to col. 6, line 1). When the user selects slow-motion, the less-compressed video is delivered at a slower frame rate (col. 6, lines 25-38). Consequently, a higher quality image will be displayed on video display 112 during slow motion playback. (col. 6, lines 38-39). When the user selects "pause," the client receives a still "snapshot" of the specified frame (col. 6, line 55 to col. 7, line 3). Further, Ramasubramanian discloses that a user may scroll through the compressed video bi-directionally (col. 7, lines 4-12). However, Ramasubramanian does not suggest or disclose skipping over video information, as recited by claims 62 and 71.

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the undersigned at (408) 288-7592.

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STEVENS & WESTBERG LLP

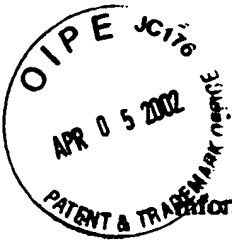
Dated: March 25, ~~2001~~ ²⁰⁰²



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Dated: March __, 2001



Atty. Dkt. No. 233/038

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